

### ***What is Food Defense?***

Food Defense is the means of preventing or eliminating the deliberate contamination of food by biological agents, toxins, chemicals, radiation, or a physical object. Prevention is the most important aspect of food defense.

### ***How does Food Defense affect my company?***

Threats to food defense might occur at any level in the food-supply chain. These attacks are focused on a specific food item, process, company, or business. Attacks may be done by a variety of individuals such as: individuals posing as customers, employees/former employees, vendors, competitors, political ideologists, organized terrorist or activist groups, lone “copycat” individuals, criminals, or anyone with an agenda. The motivations for such attacks vary greatly and include, but are not limited to, financial gain, thrill/challenge, prestige, revenge, publicity, chaos, competitive advantage, or political reasons.

A lack in food defense may have devastating repercussions for a company. Food contamination can result in widespread illnesses or even death of the consumer(s), law proceedings, distrust in the product, company, and even the industry. The smallest incident can bankrupt an entire corporation.

### ***How can the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) help?***

In 2002, ISDH entered into a Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism Cooperative Agreement and received bioterrorism funding from the Federal Centers for Disease Control. ISDH conducts food defense assessments for Indiana food manufacturers. The ISDH Food Protection Program has two Food Defense Program Coordinators who have been developing and implementing these assessments. The ISDH Food Defense Program Coordinators will conduct a free-of-charge food defense assessment of your company to provide recommendations to help protect your product from deliberate contamination. Any findings are completely confidential documents under IC 5-14-3-4(19) and are not public record.

Please contact our Food Defense Program Coordinators to schedule your assessment.

Food Defense Program website: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/20994.htm>

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